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Our Ref: SEB/CL/15/2977/PA/HOSP

28 January, 2016

Department of Development
Ribble Valley Borough Council
Church Walk
Clitheroe
Lancashire
BB7 2RA

Dear Sir / Madam

Planning Application – Two single storey extensions to Arkwright Ward at Kemple View, Longsight Road, Langho, Blackburn, Lancashire BB6 8AD

Planning Portal No. PP-04739872

I refer to the above planning application which has been submitted today to the Council via the Planning Portal and enclose a cheque for the planning fee of £770 for which a receipt would be appreciated in due course. A list of plans and documents accompanies the application.

The applicant, Partnerships in Care Ltd, operates Kemple View as a low secure and locked rehabilitation Mental Illness and Personality Disorder service for men. It has 90 beds and this is split between 54 beds for low secure, 10 beds for secure services for older men and 26 inpatient rehabilitation. Arkwright Ward provides low secure services for men over the age of 50 years with enduring mental illness. The hospital assesses and cares for patients in Arkwright who have cognitive impairment and mild/moderate symptoms of dementia, managing risk and providing excellent standards of care and promoting recovery. In 2015, Arkwright Ward, together with Wainwright Ward, won two RAID awards for working with people with challenging behaviour and their method of positive behaviour management, the aim of which is for patients to lead “rewarding lives for themselves and those around them.”

There is an increased demand from the Commissioning bodies for specialist services for older adult mentally disordered offenders. Arkwright Ward provides this facility for such patients and ensures that their needs are being met and that they are receiving the same standards of care and treatment as their community counterparts. Currently there are very few such services available and six patients are waiting for a bed on Arkwright Ward, the longest referral being 14 months. The proposed extensions to Arkwright will provide 4 new assisted bedrooms and will help to reduce this backlog of patients waiting for places in suitable accommodation.

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Dept of Development, Ribble Valley Council

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The development proposal is to build two identically sized flat roofed extensions against the west elevation of Arkwright Ward. The extensions will project 9.3m into part of a secure garden and would be 7.9m wide. They will have a flat roof with railings above which will complement the different roof styles of the existing building which comprise pitched and mono-pitched rooflines. The extensions will be constructed in brickwork and cladding to match the existing building. Each extension will contain two assisted bedrooms with ensuite facilities. There are minor alterations to the existing adjoining rooms which require a replacement side window to the existing kitchen and the relocation of a door to the side of the electricity sub station.

The additional four bedrooms will result in an extra Registered Nurse and 2 Healthcare workers, one on the day shift and the other at night-time, being employed. This will complement the existing 23.6 FTE for Arkwright Ward which includes the Ward Manager who works 0900 – 1700hrs. The additional staff will have no effect on the need to alter existing parking arrangements at Kemple View.

The proposed new bedrooms will aide those patients who have continuing care and mental health needs and would be more appropriately accommodated in this environment rather than long term rehabilitation wards which are not always adequate to meet their complex needs as they age. The extensions would be situated within the hospital complex and therefore there are no visual issues or encroachment into the open countryside.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me,

Yours faithfully,

Susan Bolton MRTPI